

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

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THE MEDICAL SCIENCES

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CABLE ADDRESS:
ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK

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Dear Mr. Gill:

In answering your letter of January 20 after an absence last week from New York, I would make the following comment on my rating of Avery, Huggins, Levine and Wiener. Your statement that the aim of the award is to recognize outstanding recent research in the medical field with particular reference to clinical application is a qualification which would point the award in a direction in which I am a little reluctant to go. This is because it favors awards to men who make application of ideas originated with much more valuable and original minds. Levine and Wiener would be the first to recognize their obligation to the ideas of Ladsteiner, and I think that - like Ladsteiner - Avery made fundamental contributions for which other less gifted and less important workers have found clinical applications relatively recently.

On any scale of merit that appeals to me particularly, I would rate Avery 6, Huggins 2, and Levine and Wiener 2. If I stick to your terms that the research be recent and with particular reference to clinical application, then I suppose that Levine and Wiener would rate 4, Huggins 3 and Avery 3.

There is a secondary consideration in connection with the work on the Rh factor which happens to appeal to me personally, namely, that it calls attention to the potential importance of heredity in the incidence of certain types of so-called diseases.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Robert S. Gill
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